

THE CARBONDALE MIRROR

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Vol. 1 No. 10
Wednesday
Oct. 21, 1981
25¢

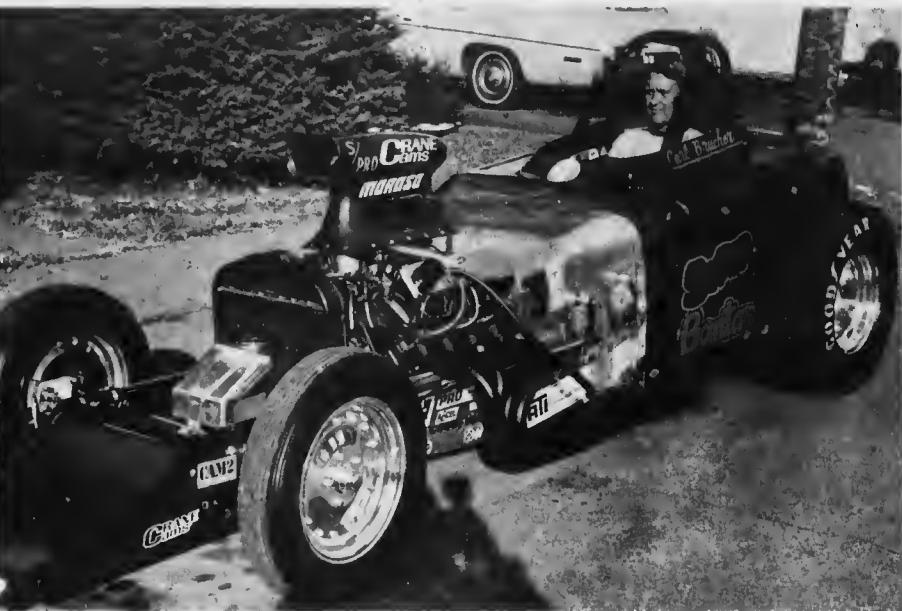
Burglars

Five city business places were struck by burglars over the weekend. Pete Smith writes about them.

Closes

Bad economic news for the area came last week when Triangle Pacific announced its plant was temporarily closing its plant.

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Carl Brucher sits in his super bantam at his Washington Street home. He races dragster regularly at a Reading drag course. See story this page. (MIRROR photo by Ros-Al)

Carl Brucher spends Sundays in the fast lane

By JOHN CHIKA

Carl Brucher, 17, of Washington Street, is spending his Sundays in the fast lane. During this past season he used a maroon and silver roadster, "The Super Banana," working in the garden, hitting a few golf balls, or lounging in front of the television with the remote control in one hand and a beer in the other.

Carl, who has a 137 Ford, spends his Sundays in the fast lane. If Carl were into the illegal "hot rods" pastime, he would be a hot rod. He would be on the West Side, drive to the East Side and pull in there, then beat the fire trucks back to the West Side.

But you don't have to worry about that because Brucher is a complete gentleman. How does he get around so fast?

Fastest car in town

Well, he owns the fastest car in town. He is a drag car racer. Last year, at the National Hot Rod Association, Brucher celebrated his 2nd year of racing, finishing up the season with a 3rd place in his best class.

Over those 20-plus years he has earned a reputation for some of the cleanest and fastest dragsters in the Northeastern drag strip.

It was in 1976, the 40th year of drag racing, that he caught the racing fever (his only hobby), with a 1937 Ford with

a 322 cubic inch Buick motor in it.

During this past season he used a maroon and silver roadster, "The Super Banana," working in the garden, hitting a few golf balls, or lounging in front of the television with the remote control in one hand and a beer in the other.

That's the reason he is spending his Sundays in the fast lane. The Super Banana is a 1937 Ford engine powered by a 3.31 Ford engine.

Weekly three-hour trips

He has been making weekly three-hour trips to Maple Grove, Reading.

When he began making the trip with his crew of wife Rose and sons Carl and Alan, he was racing in the 1977 season. Now he is quite competitive and earned a spot on the Money Trail Super Pro Team for the 1981 season.

The inside of his car isn't big enough to carry the groceries home to the store at the track.

The gearshift is located between the legs and the steering wheel is just about as big as a dinner plate.

Of course, the car is equipped with roll bars and it's not a wise machine to roll over.

When asked how long he works on his car each week, Brucher told the MIRROR, "Sometimes a few hours, sometimes a few days. All depends on how far he has to travel.

Right now she uses gasoline, but may switch to methanol next year.

He is helped in his hobby by Midway Dragster Association, which has a 1937 Ford with

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